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THE EMERALD ISLE.

THE FOLLOWING BEAUTIFUL EFFUSION
BEARS THE NAME OF OUR PATRIOTIC
BARD, MR. PHILLIPS.

Lines addressed to Walter Scott, in consequence of his Invocation to Ireland, in the Vision of Don Roderick; ending, "Strike the loudest tone of thy bold Harp, green Isle; the Hero is thy own."

ALAS! Border Minstrel, the summons
is vain,
For unstrung is the harp, and forgotten
the strain,
Which Erin once sung in her pride;
And now robb'd of the glories that circled
her reign,
To the heart-rending clank of a Conqueror's
chain,
All tuneless, she wanders the desolate
plain,
With the blood of her Patriots dyed!

Gone are the days when the Western gale
Awoke ev'ry voice of the lake and the
vale,
With the harp, and the lute, and the
lyre;
When Justice uplifted her adamant shield,
While Valour and Freedom illumina'd the
field
With a sword and a plumage of fire!

And now, Border Minstrel, the *Bigot* and
Slave
Pollute the pure land of the *free-born Brave*,
The land of the Sigh and the Smile!
Then accurs'd be the recreant heart that
could sing,
And wither'd the hand that would waken
the string,
Till the Angel of Liberty wave her wild
wing
Again o'er the EMERALD ISLE!

DISCOVERIES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN ARTS, MANU-
FACTURES, &c.

Specification of the Patent granted to John Fraser, Collector of Natural History, now of Sloune-square. Chelsea, in the parish of St. Luke, in the county of Middlesex; for a discovery, and finding out of certain Vegetables, and a way of preparing the same, so as they may be usefully employed in the manufacturing of Hats, Bonnets, Chair-bottoms, and Baskets, and for other articles and purposes. Dated October 15, 1810.

TO all to whom these presents shall come, &c. now know ye, that the said John Fraser doth, by this instrument in writing, under his hand and seal duly executed, describe and ascertain the nature of his said invention, and the method by which the same may be performed; that is to say: The said John Fraser collects or gathers the leaves (otherwise called branches)

of all, or any of the different species of the palm tribe of plants, growing spontaneously on the continent, and islands of North and South America, and in other parts beyond the seas, but more particularly in tropical climates, and may be there cultivated, and are described in the writings of the celebrated Linnæus, and other authors, before the said leaves are of matured growth. And he suspends the same in the air in the shade, in order that they may become well bleached and dry; or otherwise he causes the same to be so collected, bleached, and dried, and in this state he transports them to the place of manufacture. And farther, prepares the same for use by cutting off more or less the outer extremities, where the leaves taper and are thinnest, and from the inner extremities, where the material

is most stiff and rigid. And farther, he divides the various portions of the said leaves into longitudinal slips, with a knife or knives, or other fit cutting-tool or tools, used either singly or set in a frame, so as to afford an equal gage for the said longitudinal slips as to the breadth thereof; and he afterwards sorts and selects the said longitudinal slips, by separating a part from each other of such slips as are best adapted to the several particular uses in manufacturing as aforesaid. And in some cases he washes the said leaves previous to cutting the same (as before mentioned) with soap and water, and exposes them, after rinsing them, in a moist state to the fumes of burning sulphur in a close chamber or place. And where it may be desirable to dye the said leaves of any particular colour, he performs the same by the usual process upon them, either in their first state, or in any of the subsequent states or stages of manufacture. And farther, that among the different species of the said tribe of plants, the genus *areca* and *corypha* are the most generally useful, and to be preferred; and that the middle portion of the leaf of the plants so cut into proportions as aforesaid, is a better article than that which is produced or afforded by the extremities so cut off. And, lastly, the said slips are and may be usefully employed in manufacturing of hats and bonnets, chair bottoms and baskets, and for other articles and purposes, by plating, weaving, or intertwining the same with or without the addition or intermixture of silk, wool, cotton, or other fibrous materials, in various well known manners. And the peculiar strength and flexibility of the said vegetables so prepared

do render them capable of being employed in plating or intertextures, which could not be attempted or made with the articles or materials heretofore in use for those purposes.

On Irrigation; by Mr. Thomas Purdy, of Castle Acre, in the County of Norfolk. (From the Communications to the Board of Agriculture.)

As I am now watering at least twenty acres, in a most complete manner, by forming them into beds of from ten to twelve yards breadth, and introducing the water upon the crowns of the beds, to be carried off by parallel drains, I desire to state, that the meadows I am irrigating are situated in a neighbourhood which consists almost entirely of arable land, let generally for not more than from ten to eighteen shillings *per acre per annum*.

That meadow and pasture land do not bear a greater proportion than of one acre to fifty of arable land, and that notwithstanding this great want of feeding land, yet the meadows which I am irrigating were not in their old previous state, worth more than seven shillings *per acre* to let, being two thirds of it boggy, and the remainder full of sedges, and all sorts of aquatic rubbish.

In the present state, and with the prospect of future advantages to be gained by this irrigation, a neighbouring farmer has already offered me to hire the whole of these meadows for any length of time, and to give me for such hire, five guineas *per acre per annum*, not doubting but they will produce in the first crop of hay next summer, at least two tons and a half *per acre*.